

Farm Service Agency

July 2006
Issue 2

County Committee Election Special Issue

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County Committee Elections

It's county committee election time again for Farm Service Agency. This year the seat of LAA #5 in Del Norte County is up for election. LAA #5 encompasses southern Del Norte County.

Since this only happens once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA contributes one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Most counties are divided into three LAAs. Combined counties may have three to five LAAs. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

The three steps in the election process are the call for nominations, the election and installing the new committee member.

Nominations Open June 15, 2006

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted from June 15 - Aug. 1, 2006.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program *and* are of *legal voting age* may be nominated to *serve on* the *county* committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

Nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details are available at the county office or can be downloaded from the FSA web site. Simply go to www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/el

elections
Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1.

2006 Election Timetable

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| June 15 | Nomination period begins. |
| Aug. 1 | Deadline to submit nomination forms. |
| Nov. 3 | Ballots are mailed to eligible voters. |
| Dec. 4 | Deadline to return completed ballots to FSA county office. |
| Jan. 1, | New committee members and 2007 alternates are installed. |

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Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria.

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

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